

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former New Hampshire Police Officer Pleads Guilty to Charges in Connection with the Sexual Exploitation of Children

(More)

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CAMDEN – A former police officer pleaded guilty today to a two-count Information in connection with his attempt to abduct a Galloway Township, N.J. minor for the purpose of sexual contact and for engaging in sexually explicit conduct with another minor for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of the conduct in Passaic County, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

George Nugent, 57, of Whitefield, N.H., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas to one count of attempting to transport a minor across a state line for the purpose of engaging in sexual explicit conduct and one count of sexual exploitation of children. Judge Irenas ordered the defendant to be detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Feb. 8, 2007 at 11 a.m.

At his plea hearing, in regard to Count One of the Information, Nugent admitted that on Aug. 21, 2005, he knew that an individual identified as N.B. was a minor, and had not yet attained the age of 16 years. Nugent admitted that on that day, he attempted to transport the minor from New Jersey to New Hampshire with the intent that N.B. engage in criminal sexual activity with him. Nugent admitted that he used a computer and an Internet access device to solicit and persuade N.B. to engage in the sexual conduct.

In regard to Count Two, Nugent admitted that from February 2003 until May 2004, he knowingly engaged in sexually explicit conduct with a minor identified as J.S. and did so for the purpose of producing a visual depiction(s) of the conduct. Nugent also admitted that he took photographs of J.S., at a time when he knew that J.S. was under the age of 18, and that some of those photographs portrayed sadistic and masochistic conduct and other depictions of violence. For the purpose of producing sexually explicit photographs of J.S., Nugent admitted he used a computer and an Internet access device to solicit the participation of J.S. in the sexually explicit conduct. Nugent also admitted that he transported in interstate commerce the visual depiction(s) showing J.S. engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

In pleading guilty to a criminal Information, a defendant waives his right to be indicted by a grand jury and instead appears directly before a judge to plead guilty.

Count One of the Information, which charges attempted transportation a minor across a state line for the purpose of engaging in sexual explicit conduct, carries a statutory mandatory minimum prison sentence of 5 years and a statutory maximum prison sentence of 30 years and a fine of \$250,000. Count Two charging sexual exploitation of children carries a statutory mandatory minimum prison sentence of 15 years and a statutory maximum prison sentence of 30 years and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Irenas will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents with FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Leslie G. Wiser, Jr., in Newark, Investigators with the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Jeffrey S. Blitz, and Police Officers with the Galloway Township Police Department, under the direction of Chief Keith M. Spencer, for investigation of the case.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jacqueline Carle, of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Lori Koch, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender